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SOVIET METALLURGICAL PLANTS
INCREASE OUTPUT IN 1951

USSR MEETS 1951 PLAN FOR IRON AND STEEL -- Moscow, Pravda, 4 Jan 52

The 1951 plan for pig-iron production was fulfilled on 27 December and the plan for steel smelting on 31 December 1951 by enterprises of the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy U.S.S.R. The 1951 state plan for labor productivity and for lowering production costs in the metallurgical industry was exceeded.

TRANSCAUCASUS METALLURGICAL PLANT SHOWS MARKED PRODUCTION INCREASE -- Tbilisi, Zarya Vostoka, 10 Jan 52

During 1951, the Transcaucasus Metallurgical Plant increased the output of steel three times as compared with 1950, and the output of rolled steel five times. The average monthly output rose steadily during the year and reached its highest point in December.

The average length of melts in open-hearth furnaces, as compared with 1950, was shortened by 20 percent. The output of steel per square meter of furnace hearth increased 15 percent and the average weight of a melt was also increased.

By improving steel-smelting techniques, waste of metal in rolling operations was greatly reduced. Formerly, one ton of blooms produced 350-400 kilograms of waste metal, whereas in recent months the amount of waste has been reduced to 250 kilograms, which is the planned norm.

The plant is now producing high-quality types of pipe steel and structural steel.

During 1951, the blooming shop fulfilled its production plan successfully. The average productivity of the blooming mill increased steadily and by the end of 1951 it was $2\frac{1}{2}$ times greater than during the first quarter.

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The pipe billet shop is the newest shop of this plant. It produces billets for pipe rolling and section iron for machine-building and tractor plants. The shop is gradually mastering the use of complex equipment and is slowly increasing its productive capacity.

In 1952, the most important task of the pipe-rolling shop is to start production of seamless steel pipes of various diameters. The 1952 plan calls for a 52-percent increase in steel production and a 300-percent increase in rolled-steel production.

STALINGRAD PLANT RAISES OUTPUT -- Moscow, Komsomol'skaya Pravda, 4 Jan 52

During 1951, steelworkers of the "Krasnyy Oktyabr'" Metallurgical Plant in Stalingrad mastered high-speed methods of steel smelting. The output of steel per square meter of furnace hearth reached 7.53 tons, as compared with 7.3 tons according to norm. About 50 percent of all melts were done by high-speed methods. The 1951 plan was fulfilled ahead of schedule and 3,000 tons of steel were produced above plan.

In 1952, the plant intends to convert its operation to a cost-accounting basis. By introducing high-speed smelting, the output of steel is to be 5,000 tons over 1951. The 1952 plan is to be fulfilled by 5 December. The output of steel per square meter of furnace hearth should be increased to 8 tons, as against 7.44 tons called for by plan. By economical use of furnace charge, ferroalloys, and fuel, the durability of the furnace roof is to be increased to 500 melts.

MAGNITOGORSK AND KUZNETSK PLANTS PRODUCE IRON AND STEEL ABOVE PLAN -- Vil'nyus, Sovetskaya Litva, 9 Mar 52

In 1951, the Magnitogorsk Metallurgical Combine imeni Stalin produced above plan 213,000 tons of pig iron, 73,000 tons of steel, and 36,000 tons of rolled steel. By economizing on raw material, auxiliary materials, electric power, etc., the combine accumulated 27.6 million rubles above plan.

The Kuznetsk Metallurgical Combine also produced a large quantity of pig iron, steel, and rolled steel products above plan.

UZBEK PLANT FAILS TO MEET 1951 PLAN; JANUARY 1952 SHOWS IMPROVEMENT -- Tashkent, Pravda Vostoka, 21 Feb 52

The Uzbek Metallurgical Plant increased its production in 1951 without adding any new installations. Steel smelting increased 10.1 percent, production of rolled steel sections increased 11.5 percent, and production of thin sheet steel, 14.2 percent.

Operations during the early part of 1951 were unsatisfactory. Due to the shortage of scrap metal, the open-hearth shop completed only 83.4 percent of the smelting plan in January and February, and furnaces were out of operation for 350 hours. The average length of melts exceeded the established norm and this caused excessive use of pig iron and fuel. There were also organizational and technical shortcomings in the operation of the open-hearth shop. Mechanization was inadequate and the work was badly organized, especially the repair of furnaces.

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Delays in furnace charging caused a total of 200 $\sqrt{81c}$ hours in 1951 during which furnaces remained idle. Charging was sometimes faulty, resulting in a lower quality of steel and irregular smelting schedules.

Conditions in the rolling shop were even worse. From January to September 1951, the shop failed to meet production plans. Rolling mills operated inefficiently. The use of equipment was poorly supervised. Idle periods resulting from breakage of machine parts and other technological reasons amounted to 110 hours. In addition 66 hours were lost because of mechanical defects and faulty electrical equipment.

During the early part of 1951, the plant failed to deliver large quantities of steel and rolled steel. Appropriate organizational and technical measures were taken to improve this situation. Open-hearth furnace No 1 underwent capital repairs and the equipment of the rolling shop was improved and partly reconstructed.

In the latter part of 1951, the open-hearth and rolling shops considerably improved their production. However, despite the increased output in the 4th quarter, the rolling shop failed to fulfill the 1951 plan.

In January 1952, the plant produced several hundreds of tons of steel and rolled steel above plan. The January 1951 production level for steel smelting was exceeded by 30 percent, and the output of rolled steel was 45 percent above January 1951. Consumption of metal for rolled sections was greatly reduced and the output of second-grade products was lowered.

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